

Appln. No. 09/439,332
Amendment dated August 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed May 28, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1 and 4 through 11 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, and 12 through 22 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action

Claims 19, 20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite.

Claims 19, 20 and 22 have been cancelled, and therefore the §112 rejection of claims 19, 20 and 22 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraphs 3 through 5 of the Office Action

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perini, PN 4,487,377.

Claims 19, 20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perini, PN 4,487,377 as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Katoaka, PN 4,697,755.

Claims 13, 19, 20 and 22 have been cancelled, and therefore the 103(a) rejections of these claims are submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 4 through 11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.

By


Jeffrey A. Proehl (Reg. No. 35,987)
LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.
3500 South First Avenue Circle, Suite 250
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5807
(605)339-2028 FAX (605)336-1931

Date:

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